Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 DOEE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /152 W

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PASS ELECTRONICALLY WHITE HOUSE FOR LYNN DAFT AND AGRICULTURE FOR SEC BERGLAND FROM ASST SEC HATHAWAY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EAGR OCON

SUBJECT: WHEAT CONFERENCE PRESS RELEASE

1. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE ISSUED FROM THE USDA AT 3:30 PM THURSDAY, MARCH 23 UNLESS YOU HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH IT. IF THE LAST PARAGRAPH CAUSES ANY CONCERN ON YOUR PART, I WOULD NOT OBJECT TO ITS DELETION.

BEGIN QUOTE:

WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCES WHEAT TALKS RECESS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE DALE HATHAWAY ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE U.S. HAS AGREED TO A RECESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO REPLACE THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF 1971. HE SAID THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED TO RESUME THE NEGOTIATION NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1978. HATHAWAY, WHO RETURNED FROM GENEVA THURSDAY, AFTER THREE DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH SEVERAL HEADS OF DELEGATIONS, AGREED WITH THE GENERAL VIEW OF MOST DELEGATIONS THAT THE RECESS WAS NECESSARY. HATHAWAY SAID THE NUMBER AND IMPORTANCE OF MAJOR UNRESOLVED ISSUES IS TOO

LARGE TO EXPECT THEM TO BE SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED AT THIS TIME. AMONG THE ISSUES HE MENTIONED ARE THE MATTER OF THE ROLE OF PRICES AND RELATED COMMITMENTS, THE MATTER OF THE INCLUSION OF FEED GRAINS, THE SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION OF GRAIN RESERVE OBLIGATIONS, THE HANDLING OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF IMPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THE COMMITMENTS OF DONORS TO A NEW FOOD AID CONVENTION. HATHAWAY SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF THE EXACT DATE WHEN THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD RESUME HAD BEEN LEFT OPEN AND WOULD BE DEALT WITH BY CONTINUING CONSULTA-TIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. AN INTERIM COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SELECTED TO WORK IN MAY. "WHILE I BELIEVE THAT A WORKABLE AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED" HE SAID, "IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PRESENT ISSUES CANNOT BE RESOLVED UNTIL MAJOR DECISIONS BY GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. NOW THAT THE ISSUES AND POSITIONS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WE BELIEVE THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE REOPENING NEGOTIATIONS." WHILE THE U.S. GOVERN-MENT HAD TAKEN THE LEADERSHIP OVER THE PAST YEAR IN PROPOSING A NEW TYPE WHEAT AGREEMENT WITH COORDINATED RESERVE STOCKS, HATHAWAY INDICATED THAT HE FELT THAT THE RECESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WOULD CAUSE NO PROBLEMS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S DOMESTIC PRICE, INCOME, AND FARMER RESERVE PROGRAMS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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